



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

April 11, 2022

**Via email**

EPA Region 6 Administrator  
Earthea Nance, PhD, PE  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270  
[Nance.Earthea@epa.gov](mailto:Nance.Earthea@epa.gov)

Re: Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC

Dear Dr. Nance:

Although applicable Louisiana statutes place industrial chemical air emissions under the regulatory purview of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has for several years been consulting and working with LDEQ and the affected community to determine and address human health concerns related to emissions of chloroprene from the Denka Performance Elastomer facility in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (the "Facility"). To that end, LDH has received a copy of the enclosed draft report concerning a demonstration project commissioned by LDH and conducted by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC), entitled *St. John the Baptist Parish Chloroprene Monitoring Demonstration; Subproject of "Cancer Reporting in St. John the Baptist Parish ("CRISP") Project*, dated April 11, 2022. The report raises new concerns about the possible levels of exposure to chloroprene and other chemicals being sustained by community residents near the Facility. LDH is providing you with a copy of the report to enable you to take whatever actions or measures you deem appropriate with regard thereto. Additionally, LDH respectfully requests the assistance and expertise of your agencies with:

- Technical analysis of LSUHSC's newly reported data and findings,
- Assessment of the *need* for additional monitoring, data collection, or other measures, and

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- Recommendations regarding *implementation* of any recommended additional monitoring or data collection efforts, including additional public health measures and public advisories.

For reference, we have included herewith copies of the following additional reports related to Denka emissions:

- *Reference Document for the Preliminary Assessment of Chloroprene Levels in St. John the Baptist Parish* (LDH\OPH, June 14, 2018)
- *Cancer Reporting in St. John Parish* (LSUHSC, Final Report 2021)

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need any additional information or reports. We have made a similar request to the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Louisiana Department of Health

Enclosures

cc: Michael S. Regan. EPA Administrator  
ATSDR  
LDEQ